

SARAH E. PRICE.

---

MAY 7, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. MORRILL, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 3623.]

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3623) granting a pension to Sarah E. Price, submit the following report:*

The committee find that Sarah E. Price is the widow of Capt. Nathan Price, of Company F, Fourth Kansas Volunteers; that he entered the service on the 3d of August, 1861, and served faithfully for over three years, when he was honorably discharged. The regiment before his discharge had become so decimated that it was merged into the Tenth Kansas Volunteers.

From the effects of long and severe marches he became disabled by reason of varicose veins in his right leg, from which he suffered intense pains, continuing at intervals until his death. He received a pension from 1864 until the time of his death, which occurred in 1883.

It is claimed that he took his own life while in a fit of temporary insanity caused by the use of drugs and stimulants taken to relieve the intense pain from which he suffered. Fred. J. Close, clerk of the district court, testifies:

I knew Nathan Price for seventeen years prior to his death; for five last years before his death I saw him as often, on an average, as once a day. I was clerk of the district court during said time, and he was an attorney. Price often told me of his intense and continuous suffering from varicose veins in his legs, and the older he grew the more he suffered, and he would often show me his leg and loosen the bandage or tighten it up, as it seemed to require. It always looked bad; veins very large and limb swollen. He often told me that he used liquor, chloroform, and hydrate of chloral to relieve his suffering and give him rest. I have seen him take morphine and chloral frequently, and often smelled hydrate of chloral in his breath. From constant use of these drugs for many years his mind at times became affected, and in a temporary fit of insanity he committed suicide.

I saw him a very short time before, on the same day, and he was then under the influence of hydrate of chloral, and his conversation was disconnected, and he had a wild look.

Capt. Robert Flickinger says he has been for twenty-four years an intimate friend and neighbor of Captain Price and his family; that there are now three children, aged, respectively, fifteen, thirteen, and eight years; that by Captain Price's death they are left destitute; that they have no property and no means of support except her own labor; that he knew Captain Price prior to his enlistment, and knows that he was..

not affected with varicose veins, and that he knows that he has suffered with varicose veins ever since.

Others of his neighbors testify to the same facts. Your committee find that the evidence establishes the fact that his death was directly traceable to the effects of the service. There is every reason to suppose that his early death at the age of forty-five years would not have occurred had it not been for his three years of life in the United States military service. We do not believe our Government will permit the widows and helpless children of her brave defenders to suffer. Your committee recommend that the bill be amended by striking out all after the word "volunteers" in sixth line, and substituting "tenth" for "thirteenth" in sixth line, and that it be passed as amended.

○